

Application Serial No. 10/516,471
Reply to Office Action of June 25, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-5962

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated June 25, 2008, the Examiner states that Claims 70-72, 80, 85 and 86 are pending, and Claims 70-72, 80, 85. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 80 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with regard to the "elongate portion". The claims have been amended to refer to the "enlarged portion" instead, as suggested by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, Claims 70, 72 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schumm (U.S. 3,147,522). Claims 71, 85 and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schumm. The Applicant considers that the amendments to the claims overcome these rejections.

Independent Claims 70, 80 and 85 have been amended to further define the member having a hole, the periphery of which is entirely surrounded by a material of the member. In contrast, the corresponding attaching portion on the member in Schumm is better defined as a slot 3 instead of the claimed hole. The slot 3 is not entirely surrounded by a material of the member to form a hole through which the enlarged portion is passed through, as claimed. For at least this reason, the Applicant considers that the amended claims are not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Schumm.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



September 25, 2008

Date

Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613